

chance to talk to and help the people who called and came in our front door. Happily, she agreed to take the new job, and did it so well we promoted her to legislative assistant four months later.

Letitia has always been someone I could turn to for the most difficult jobs. When it appeared we would never convince Congress in 1983 to pay for a flood control project that would protect more than a million Southern California residents, she helped convince colleagues from four counties to work together—and got the project started in our district.

She has also shared with me a desire to encourage innovation and small business. Years ago, I asked Letitia to help me make sure the Pentagon provided increased funding for rapid development of a radical new technology—unmanned aerial vehicles. Through her work, we managed to move up testing and evaluation of the Predator UAV program by two years. Now, of course, it is one of the most highly touted new weapons in our war against terrorism.

After years of toiling in the legislative trenches and solving problems for my constituents and district, Letitia became an appropriations associate in 1986, and now works directly with the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Since taking that job, she has taken the dedication to constituent service to a new level.

Appropriations staff members have a special role in Congress, helping to ensure that our government spending meets the needs of the public and stays within our budget. At the same time, they must help us to win the support of a majority of Congress, since these spending bills must pass every year. New staff members working on appropriations would do well to learn from Letitia, who has made an art of providing “constituent” service to other House members and the agencies we oversee.

She is the epitome of what we mean when we speak of dwelling on the positive. She looks for the good in people, and really works at building on their strengths. At the same time, she uses every bit of her energy to help them succeed in what they need. The members of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, on both sides of the aisle, will attest to Letitia's intelligence, hard work, courtesy and optimism. She is one of the primary reasons we are able to pass a \$300 billion spending bill with almost no debate or rancor.

Twenty years after she took her first call as a receptionist, Letitia still jumps to answer the telephone when she is in the front office. She will still spend 15 minutes talking to constituents who are in town for a visit, and then take on the most technical meetings with generals and assistant cabinet secretaries. She will undertake any job and work nights, weekends and through her vacation to get it done. And she lives by a rule I often quote: It's amazing what we can accomplish if we don't worry about who gets the credit.

Mr. Speaker, we often think of our congressional staff members as our “family,” and many times during the year they spend more time with us than their real families. We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Letitia's husband, Dick White, for being understanding when she must work long hours—and then take more work home. I ask you and my colleagues to join in thanking Letitia for her dedication to the American people, and wishing her well in the years to come.

H. RES. 264, PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2975; TO COMBAT TERRORISM

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to object to this rule in the strongest possible terms. I believe that both the path taken and the point at which we have arrived this morning are an affront to the democratic process and are stunning examples of a breakdown in the systems that have served our country and the Congress for over two hundred years.

The issues addressed in this legislation are of profound importance to the safety and security of our constituents and to the continued safety of the country as a whole. I believe that there is no more important duty undertaken by a member of this body than to protect the welfare of his or her constituents while also protecting the civil liberties for which so many Americans have given their lives. The procedural tactics employed this morning in the name of expediency, however, threaten not only to derail a legislative process that would have resulted in a widely supported bill to protect Americans, it also threatens to undermine the civil liberties enjoyed by Americans and the democratic principles enshrined in this very chamber.

The outrage of this morning is tremendously disturbing to me and many of my colleagues. Rather than allowing a widely supported bill—passed unanimously by a committee that is often viewed as one of the most partisan in the Congress—to come to the floor for debate and a vote, the leadership of this body has decided to craft an alternative bill in the dead of night without providing the membership of the body at-large sufficient time to study its contents. I cannot understand why the leadership would threaten the wonderful spirit of bipartisanship that has flourished in the Congress over the last month by resorting to these types of procedural tactics and back-room deal making.

I arrived at the Capitol this morning buoyed by the prospects that a thoughtfully deliberated and considered bill would be presented on the floor of the House for additional debate and consideration. I was monumentally disappointed to discover, however, that the bill had been pulled and replaced by an unstudied substitute, the contents of which remain largely a mystery to even many senior members of the Judiciary Committee. At nearly two hundred pages of esoteric and technical language, the bill is beyond the length that a member of this body may be reasonably assumed to have read and understood.

By opposing this unfair rule, I am standing in support of fairness and the democratic process. I fully understand the need to implement new measures that will allow law enforcement to respond to the new threats posed to the United States by those who would do us harm, but I must urge my colleagues to oppose the rule. By defeating this rule, we will allow sufficient time to pass so that we may, in good conscience, examine this new bill and cast our votes confident that we understand its contents and its implications for law enforcement and democracy.

TRIBUTE TO KIM GREGURICH

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pleasant Hill, Illinois, as well as all Americans who have given their support to the cause of bringing home our POWs.

Like thousands of other Americans, Kim is the owner of a POW/MIA bracelet—a copper band inscribed with the name of a soldier who was either listed as missing in action or as a prisoner of war during our time in Vietnam. The name on Kim's bracelet is Lieutenant Commander Robert Shumaker, a pilot shot down in 1965. She has had the bracelet for over thirty years; she bought it to show her support of our armed forces, and promised never to take it off unless her POW was released. These bracelets were a method of putting public pressure on the Vietnamese government to send our soldiers home.

It worked. Lieutenant Commander Shumaker was released on the Flight to Freedom in 1975 in part, he says, because the Vietnamese knew how closely the American people were watching them. Ms. Gregurich heard that happy report on the radio and was finally able to take off her bracelet.

Now, twenty-six years later, she has decided to go one step further—she has taken the initiative to locate Mr. Shumaker and send him the copper band. “I wasn't sure if it would be a bad memory,” she said, “but I just wanted him to know that there was one more person thinking about him while he was gone.”

But Mr. Speaker, while Ms. Gregurich's tale is heartwarming, it is also a sad reminder—many Americans have not yet been able to take off their bracelets. There are 1,948 Americans that are still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War; there are another 58,000 whose fate we know all too well. These men and women will never come home; so, like Ms. Gregurich, I will hold a bracelet for each of them in my heart.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gregurich and others who put their hearts into this support deserve our thanks; and them men and women who fought and died for our country deserve our eternal gratitude. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to note the vital contribution the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) has made to the daunting clean up task at the World Trade Center's “Red Zone,” better known as “Ground Zero.” The IUOE's National Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Program is based in Beaver, West Virginia. I am proud to represent them in Congress as part of the Third Congressional District of West Virginia.

Don Carson, the Director of IUOE's Hazmat program, and a team of workers from the Beaver facility were among the first out-of-state